



## ***Connecting NY to Broadband***

New York Makes the Largest Single Investment to Close the Digital Divide in the State's History



Accelerating the availability, affordability and utilization of broadband technologies is a high priority for New York State. Access to the numerous benefits of broadband service, such as e-commerce, e-government, telemedicine and distance learning, will result in job creation, improved healthcare, greater educational opportunities and enhanced economic development.

Recognizing that a strong broadband infrastructure is vital to our state's economic well-being, on March 5, Governor Cuomo announced \$25 million in awards to expand high-speed Internet access in rural upstate and underserved urban areas of New York through the Connect NY Broadband Grant Program. Together, the projects selected to receive these grants will bring broadband service to more than 153,000 households, 8,000 businesses and 400 anchor institutions - many without any means to access the Internet -- across more than 6,000 square miles of New York State. [To learn more click here.](#)



## ***Spotlight on Success***

NuClimate: An Example of What New York State Centers of Excellence Can Produce

Governor Cuomo has stressed the importance of partnerships between universities and private industry in growing our innovation economy. Empire State Development's [Centers of Excellence](#) program is a state funded partnership intended to leverage the research strengths of our universities to help companies of all sizes grow and create jobs. One such success story involves a central New York company and the [Syracuse Center of Excellence \(SyracuseCoE\)](#).

Armed with an idea for a new energy-efficient commercial heating, ventilation and air conditioning system for schools and office buildings, [NuClimate](#) utilized the resources and expertise of the SyracuseCoE in growing its business. The CoE assisted NuClimate at several stages of product development and commercialization, including simulation and modeling of their initial concept, testing of a proof-of-concept prototype and providing independent testing to assist NuClimate in accessing its initial markets. [Continue reading more.](#)

**"NuClimate would not have achieved what it has without the help we received from the Syracuse Center of Excellence."**

*- John DeMilo, NuClimate Vice President*

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## Promoting New York's Beverage Industry

ESD Launches One Stop Shop for the State's Wine, Beer and Spirit Industry

In another example of how New York State continues to find ways to cut red tape, increase demand for locally grown farm products and expand industry-related tourism and economic development, on March 4, Governor Cuomo announced the launch of a "[One Stop Shop](#)" designed to provide the wine, beer and spirits industry with a single point of government contact.



The "One Stop Shop" was created as a result of suggestions made during Governor Cuomo's Wine, Beer and Spirits Summit held in Albany in October 2012. Summit participants raised concerns about the number of different state agencies they needed to navigate not only to go into business, but also to stay in state compliance. These businesses, many of whom are small and do not retain attorneys on a full time basis, sometimes found themselves unnecessarily subject to avoidable fines because of a lack of knowledge about the multi-agency oversight regulating their industry. For the full story, [click here](#).

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## The Oscar Goes to...

The Empire State!

New York State made a number of appearances during this year's Oscar award ceremonies.

The 2013 Oscar for Best Visual Effects was won by *Life of Pi*, which received rave reviews for its digital depiction of a Bengal tiger created by three alumni from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). The digital tiger appeared in all but 24 of the 170 shots in the movie, and blended seamlessly into two dozen other shots of a real life tiger.



Oscar-winning RIT alum  
(*Rhythm & Hues*)

RIT alums Scott Vosbury, Rich Enders and Jen Stratton work for the character and visual effects studio that supplied about 600 people to work on the film. Of his New York-based training, Vosbury, lead digital composer on the film, said: "RIT gives students what I call a 'real world' education - that is a combination of a great academic program combined with practical filming experience from Day One. There aren't many other universities in the U.S. that do that." For full story, [click here](#).



SUNY student ChaRon Brabham delivers a statuette on stage at the Oscars  
(Richard Harbaugh/  
©A.M.P.A.S.)



## Two New Leaders Join I Love NY

Accomplished Industry Professionals Tapped to Lead NYS Tourism Team

Tourism is a huge economic driver in New York and the state's fifth largest employer. The millions of visitors drawn to the Empire

State in 2011 resulted in \$53.9 billion in direct spending and \$6.9 billion in state and local tax revenue, representing a significant impact on the state's economic growth.

Since taking office, Governor Cuomo has launched a series of initiatives to further grow tourism, particularly upstate, including new marketing and advertising campaigns to showcase New York's many assets and attractions. Now, two new leaders have joined the New York State tourism team to help further that momentum: Gavin Landry has joined Empire State Development as Executive Director of Tourism and Cristyne Nicholas was appointed by Governor Cuomo to serve as Chair of the New York State Tourism Advisory Council. For full story, [click here](#).

## ***ESD Events***

### Activities around New York State That You Can Attend

Kenneth Adams, Western NY Regional President Sam Hoyt and other New York State agency officials continued to meet with the public and present Governor Cuomo's 2013-2014 Executive Budget agenda. [View full schedule](#).



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